

**Creating a disciple making/sending Culture – Practices/habits, priorities, patterns
Yellowstone Presbytery March 2019**

Skit – what do you notice? Recognize? Thoughts?

What is a culture? It's power?

Why it is so important?

When the words [of Christian belief and faith] truly live, they live in the lives of the [disciples] who live by the Word of God... the early Christians living in a pagan society... lived a "shared life distinguished by community practices centered in the One God"... a way of life together that contrasted significantly from that of the larger society...a way of life that is born of the Word of God and is shared as a gift of love to all in need.

Craig Dykstra, Lilly Endowment, Preface, p.xi *Flawed Church, Faithful God* by Joseph Small

How are people formed and transformed?

Cultures understood and transformed?

Spiritual practices/habits

Early church – practices, 1-1 discipling, catechumenate WAY of life (John Burgess, Sittser, Small,
Along with beliefs and convictions

The Christian's life, spiritual journey and growing like Jesus, practice of the spiritual disciplines is a marvelous, mysterious combination of, cooperation between the divine, Holy Spirit initiated activity and our human will, choice cooperating in attitudes, practices, actions... as individuals and communities. MT p 8-9

Categories of Traditional Disciplines – Inward and Outward – such as in Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* or Gordon Cosby

Dallas Willard's are -

Disciplines of Abstinence: *Solitude, Silence, Fasting, Frugality, Chastity, Secrecy, Examen, Sacrifice...*

Generally, these disciplines expose and break old, sinful patterns:

Example: Fasting... disciplines cravings, "flesh,"

Disciplines of Engagement: *Study, Worship, Celebration, Offering, Service, Prayer, Fellowship, Confession, Submission*, some add hospitality and many here (*Edward's Getting to Know God – Romans 12:1-2*).

Fasting – See handout from *Soul Feast*

What is a 'Rule of Life'?

Rule – from the Latin *regula* – a bar or Trellis

The structure, frame needed for certain plants to grow in healthy intended, fruitful way

Vine – John 15

Augustine, St. Benedict – most famous – the end of the "Rule" – love

Quotes = p. 14 in Justin Earley

"My effort to offer the hope and joy that I've found to the epidemic of anxiety, depression and overwork of so many well-intentioned people. It is a communal way of forming your life in the love of God & neighbor, amidst a culture beset by individualism and consumerism." Justin Earley

Bibliography of resources

In the Dust of the Rabbi Discovery Guide: 5 Faith Lessons (with DVD and study Guide)

by Ray Vander Laan and Stephen and Amanda Sorenson

Video 1 in the series is available free on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3OKkHTHRis>

Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth, Richard Foster, (Try and get the 2018 Special anniversary edition)

Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life, Marjorie Thompson, Forewords by Henri Nouwen and Barbara Brown Taylor, Newly Revised Ed. 2014

The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives Dallas Willard,

Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation, by Ruth Haley Barton, Book, study guide, DVD (Renovare Resources)

Spiritual Rhythms for the Enneagram: A Handbook for Harmony and Transformation, Adele & Doug Calhoun, Clare & Scott Loughrige

You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit, by James K. A. Smith

Crafting a Rule of Life: An Invitation to the Well-Ordered Way by Stephen Macchia and Mark Buchanan

Wisdom distilled from the daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict today by Joan Chittister

The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction by Justin Whitmel Earley

Flawed Church, Faithful God by Joseph Small

Sensible Shoes: A story About the Spiritual Journey by Sharon Garlough Brown Follows the stories of four women as they are drawn into a spiritual formation journey as a retreat center...takes the reader into a new understanding of key spiritual practices and offers support for those who want to travel deeper into life with God themselves. Sharon pastored in Scotland, England and the US, Princeton Grad, spiritual director.